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in connection with Dr. Manning's own words, to secure, as nowhere else, a comprehensive view of the best thought of the Episcopal Church on this vital problem.

The ease and grace of Dr. Manning's style add materially to the pleasure with which one reads this little volume, and indicate a clarity of vision, a sanity of judgment, and a sweet reasonableness of temper which are altogether admirable, but too often lacking in the discussion of this absorbing subject.

W. H. D.

A HARMONY OF THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS IN GREEK. By Ernest De Witt Burton and Edgar Johnson Goodspeed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1920.

Last year the authors laid students of the first three Gospels under great obligations by publishing their *Harmony of the Synoptic Gospels for Historical and Critical Study* (Scribners). Now this service is capped by the present admirably equipped volume. Rushbrook's *Synopticon* is too cumbrous and complicated for general use, and Wright's *Synopsis of the Gospels in Greek* lacks the mechanical conveniences of the present volume.

The text is that of Westcott and Hort, with its marginal readings.

T. P. B.

FIFTY CONTEMPORARY ONE-ACT PLAYS. Selected and Edited by Frank Shay and Pierre Loving. Cincinnati: Stewart & Kidd Company. 1920. Pp. viii, 582.

MANSIONS. By Hildegard Flanner. Cincinnati: Stewart & Kidd Company. 1920. Pp. 38.

HEARTS TO MEND. By Harry A. Overstreet. Cincinnati: Stewart & Kidd Company. 1920. Pp. 28.

The editors have shown much enthusiasm and some skill and discernment in selecting and arranging the fifty plays which comprise their portly one-act anthology. Copyright difficulties, no doubt, will account for regrettable absences and exclusions. France, Great Britain and Ireland might all be better represented, while America is over-represented, to the detriment of what is really worthy in its dramatic programme and able in its performance. The allocation of twenty-two plays to the American

section as against twenty-eight to the rest of the world betrays a lack of critical proportion. Mr. Loving, indeed, appears to feel this somewhat, and places especial emphasis in his rather wordy introduction upon "the renaissance that is gradually taking place in the American theatre". He goes on to speak of—

"a younger generation of dramatists, which is achieving its most notable work outside the beaten path of popular recognition, in small dramatic juntos [*sic*] and in the little theatres."

But is this work at the periphery really symptomatic of any true renaissance quality observable at the centre or in the circle at large? The American—indeed the Anglo-Saxon—theatre of to-day, with its 'star' system, its ugly pornography and its commercialization, is hardly likely to be redeemed by dissatisfied dilettantes, however clean and clever their productions. Gordon Craig, Granville Barker and Winthrop Ames have diagnosed and prescribed, accurately and acutely enough, but to us the patient seems still largely intractable.

Mr. Loving properly prides his colleague and himself, however, on the inclusion of some of the less well-known and less accessible foreign plays. Good work is reproduced here from the plays of Schnitzler, Maeterlinck, More (Bolivia), Ancey, de Porto-Riche, Wedekind, Bennett, Cannan, Crocker, Lady Gregory, Speenhoff, Biro, Giacosa, Andreyev, Tchekov, Benevente, Strindberg and Wied, while of the American contributors Lewis Beach, Susan Glaspell, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Philip Moeller and Eugene G. O'Neill are perhaps the most worth while. We are glad to note two plays from the Yiddish, by Sholom Asch and David Pinski, respectively. Mr. Shay supplies a useful bibliography of the Little Theatre.

Of the two one-act plays—*Mansions* and *Hearts to Mend*—the latter is easily the more workmanlike. It is a graceful and symbolic fantasy touching the up-and-down variations in romantic love. As Claudius has it in *Hamlet*:—

"There lives within the very flame of love
A kind of wick or snuff that will abate it;
And nothing is at a like goodness still. . . ."

The *motif* of *Mansions* is the conflict between youth's hope of the future and age's contentment with the past. Its characters are recognizable, but its psychology in the crisis-moment is unsound, which is the more regrettable in that the necessary but difficult telescoping of rise and fall is, in itself, well done.

G. H. C.

COAL, IRON AND WAR: A STUDY IN INDUSTRIALISM, PAST AND FUTURE. By Edwin C. Eckel. New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1920. Pp. 375.

Much time has passed since Matthew Arnold deplored the preoccupation of many Englishmen with the possible exhaustion of the coal supply and the consequences to their country's greatness. The staunchest supporter of Arnold's ideals to-day could not deny the vital importance of that question. Only a country whose life is purely agricultural can effect a measure of indifference to the shifting of the world's coal and iron centres, and not even a purely agricultural country can escape the secondary results of such shifts. Mr. Eckel is no alarmist, no propagandist for conservation, but while he foresees no scarcity of the bases of industry for many generations, he presents facts which are significant for the economic balance of power in the near future.

Coal, Iron and War comprises a brief summary of industrial history since the middle eighteenth century, an analysis of the situation to-day, and an application of the facts so arrived at to an understanding of the possibilities of the future.

In the way of history the volume contributes little that is new to one acquainted with the general features of industrial progress, although in the brief treatment of the World War the author shows the importance of certain facts as yet hardly mentioned by historical writers; for example, the unfortunate consequences of the withdrawal of the French armies behind the frontier just prior to the declaration of war, and the stupendous industrial results of the early German victories, together with the reflection that the Mesopotamian campaign "was the one sound commercial enterprise of the World War". (p. 130.)

In the analysis of present conditions, as elsewhere, the scope of the book is broader than the title indicates, for the author